

What is claimed is:

1. A system for placement of an anchor in an animal subject, comprising:
a pair of anchor extensions engageable to the animal subject, each anchor extension including a proximal end and a distal end, said distal ends forming an alignment axis therebetween when engaged to the animal subject; and
a guide instrument mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions, said guide instrument including a guide member defining a guide axis intersecting said alignment axis when mounted to said pair of anchor extensions, said guide member being movable relative to said pair of anchor extensions while maintaining said guide axis in intersecting relation with said alignment axis.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising an inserter including a proximal portion pivotally mountable adjacent said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and a distal portion extending transversely to said proximal portion, said distal portion being movable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions by pivoting said proximal portion relative thereto.
3. The system of claim 2, further comprising a connecting element releasably engageable to said distal portion of said inserter, said connecting element being positionable along said alignment axis with said inserter.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein said connecting element is a rod.
5. The system of claim 3, further comprising a pair of anchors each including a distal portion engageable to a bony segment of the animal subject, said pair

of anchors further each including a proximal receiver portion defining a passageway alignable along the alignment axis, said pair of anchor extensions being mountable with a corresponding one of said receiver portions of said anchors.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein said pair of anchors are multi-axial screws.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said guide instrument includes a mounting assembly coupled with said guide member, said mounting assembly being removably mounted to said pair of anchor extensions.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said mounting assembly includes a mounting member and a coupling member rotatably mounted to and extending proximally from said mounting member, said mounting member being removably mounted between said pair of anchor extensions along a mounting axis.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said coupling member is removably mounted to said mounting member.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein said guide member is pivotally coupled to said coupling member about a hinge axis offset from said mounting axis.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said guide member includes a bore extending along said guide axis.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein said coupling member is rotatably and removable coupled to said mounting member with a mounting pin extending through a bore of said mounting member, said bore extending along said mounting axis.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said mounting pin includes a distal portion positionable in said bore, said distal portion including a pair of longitudinal fingers and a slot between said fingers.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said pair of fingers each include a radial projecting engageable to said mounting member when said mounting pin is positioned through said bore.

15. The system of claim 7, wherein said mounting assembly is positionable about said proximal ends of said pair of anchor extensions and clampable thereto.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said guide instrument includes a coupling member rotatably coupled to said clamp assembly adjacent said proximal end of one of said anchor extensions, said coupling member extending from said rotatable connection with said clamp assembly to a coupling portion, said guide member being rotatably coupled to said coupling portion of said coupling member.

17. A guide instrument for guiding placement of an anchor in an bony segment, comprising:

a mounting assembly mountable to at least one anchor extension extending from the bony segment, said mounting assembly defining a mounting axis extending toward the bony segment when mounted on the at least one anchor extension; and

a guide member defining a guide axis along which the anchor is positioned for engagement with the bony segment, said guide member being coupled to said mounting assembly with said guide member offset from said mounting axis, said guide axis extending from said guide member toward the bony segment and intersecting the mounting axis adjacent the bony segment when said mounting member is mounted on the at least one anchor extension, said guide member being movably positionable about said mounting axis with said guide axis maintained in intersecting relation with said mounting axis.

18. The guide instrument of claim 17, wherein said mounting assembly includes a mounting member mountable to the at least one anchor extension and a coupling member rotatably coupled to said mounting member.

19. The guide instrument of claim 18, wherein said guide member is pivotally coupled to said coupling member.

20. The guide instrument of claim 19, further comprising a mounting pin extending between said mounting member and said coupling member along said mounting axis, said mounting pin being removably coupled to said mounting member.

21. The guide instrument of claim 20, wherein said mounting member defines a bore extending along said mounting axis for removably receiving said mounting pin.

22. The guide instrument of claim 19, wherein said coupling member and said guide member are pivotally coupled to one another with a hinge pin extending through a

number of interdigitating hinge members of said coupling member and said hinge member.

23. The guide instrument of claim 17, wherein said guide axis and said mounting axis intersect at an angle.

24. The guide instrument of claim 23, wherein said angle ranges from about 2 degrees to about 8 degrees.

25. The guide instrument of claim 17, wherein said mounting assembly is mountable between a pair of anchor extensions.

26. The guide instrument of claim 25, wherein said mounting assembly includes a mounting member mountable between said pair of anchor extensions, said mounting member including a pair of opposite concavely curved surfaces extending between said pair of anchor extensions.

27. A guide instrument for guiding placement of an anchor in an bony segment, comprising:

a mounting assembly engageable to a pair of anchor extensions;

a coupling member rotatably coupled to said mounting assembly about an axis, said coupling member including a coupling portion offset from said axis; and

a guide member hingedly coupled to said coupling portion along a hinge axis offset from said axis, said guide member extending to a guide body offset from said hinge axis,

said guide body including a passage for guiding placement of an anchor along a guide axis defined by said guide passage.

28. The guide instrument of claim 27, wherein said guide passage is a bore through said guide body.

29. The guide instrument of claim 28, wherein said mounting assembly includes a mounting member positionable between proximal ends of the pair of anchor extensions along a mounting axis.

30. The guide instrument of claim 29, wherein said axis extends along said mounting axis.

31. The guide instrument of claim 30, further comprising a mounting pin extending between said mounting member and said coupling member along said mounting axis, said mounting pin being removably coupled to said mounting member.

32. The guide instrument of claim 31, wherein said coupling member and said guide member are pivotally coupled to one another with about a hinge axis offset from said mounting axis.

33. The system of claim 27, wherein said mounting assembly is positionable about proximal ends of the pair of anchor extensions and is clampable thereto.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein said coupling member is rotatably coupled to said clamp assembly, said coupling member extending from said rotatable

connection with said clamp assembly to a coupling portion, said guide member being rotatably coupled to said coupling portion of said coupling member.

35. A method for engaging a secondary anchor to a bony segment, comprising:

engaging first and second primary anchors to the bony segment;
mounting a guide instrument to the first and second primary anchors; and
guiding the secondary anchor to the bony segment with the guide instrument to position a secondary anchor along an alignment axis extending between the first and second primary anchors.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein guiding the secondary anchor includes guiding the secondary anchor between the first and second primary anchors.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the first and second primary anchors each include a receiver portion and guiding the secondary anchor includes aligning a receiver portion of the secondary anchor along an axis extending through the receiver portions of the first and second primary anchors.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein each of the receiver portions is rotatable about a portion of the anchor engaged to the bony segment.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein each of the receiver portions includes a passage for receiving a connecting element, and guiding the secondary anchor includes aligning the passages of each of the receiver portions.

40. The method of claim 35, further comprising:
positioning a connecting element between the aligned primary and secondary anchors; and
engaging the connecting element to the primary and secondary anchors.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein positioning the connecting element includes percutaneously guiding the connecting element through aligned passages of the primary and secondary anchors.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein positioning the connecting element includes:

removing the guide instrument;
mounting an anchor extension to the secondary anchor;
coupling the anchor extensions of the primary and secondary anchors to one another with an inserter instrument, the inserter instrument including the connecting element coupled thereto; and
pivoting the inserter about the anchor extensions to position the connecting element along the alignment axis.

43. The method of claim 35, wherein the guide instrument includes a guide member defining a guide axis along which the secondary anchor is guided.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the guide axis intersects the alignment axis.

45. The method of claim 44, further comprising repositioning the guide member relative to the first and second primary anchors while maintaining the intersection of the guide axis with the alignment axis.